

SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN AMENDMENT 2: "PROFOUND VICTORY FOR PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY"

STATEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE

Washington, D.C., May 20, 1996

Today the Supreme Court ruled against Colorado's Amendment 2. The decision was 6 to 3, with Justices Kennedy, Ginsberg, Souter, Breyer, O'Connor, and Stevens ruling against Amendment 2, and Justices Rehnquist, Scalia, and Thomas dissenting. The measure would have amended the Colorado state constitution to overturn existing protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and prohibit the passage of any such protection in the future. It was passed by majority vote in 1992. The following statement is attributable to Melinda Paras, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force



to be different and still live free from the tyranny of the majority. We are reminded of the words of Justice Blackmun, who in his 1986 dissent to the loathsome *Hardwick v. Bowers* case that upheld discriminatory sodomy laws, said, "The freedom to differ as to things that do not matter much is a mere shadow of freedom. The real test of its substance is the freedom to differ as to the things that touch the heart of the existing order."

Thank you Supreme Court justices for protecting our constitutional freedoms. This is a joyous day for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans. The time is drawing closer when we do not

This is a momentous day for our movement and for all those who believe in personal liberty, justice and freedom. We are making progress toward ending intolerance and educating America about who we really are. At the same time we know our battle is not over. We must remain on guard and defend against what surely will be a backlash. With today's ruling, we are one important step closer to attaining our dream of a more compassionate and fair society.

(NGLTF) executive director. NGLTF is the nation's oldest gay and lesbian civil rights organization.

The Supreme Court decision today on Colorado's Amendment 2 is a profound victory for all who believe in basic equal rights and the fundamental principle that all Americans deserve to live free from discrimination. It would have created special barriers to basic equal rights. It would have blocked the open and free participation in our democratic process for gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

We commend those justices who defended basic civil rights and stood up to the anti-democratic agenda of religious political extremists. This case was not just about gay, lesbian and bisexual people. At stake are the very principles of democracy: justice, freedom, personal liberty, and the right

have to live as second-class citizens anymore. When we can live free from violence, persecution, discrimination and intolerance. When the mistruths of religious political extremists are exposed as lies. When the horrible rhetoric that we seek "special rights" or that we threaten "traditional family values" is replaced with the truth that we demand the same basic equal rights that all Americans enjoy, including the ability to work free from discrimination and nurture our own families.

This ruling should be the stake through the heart of the divisive, unconstitutional and extremist anti-gay ballot measure campaigns of the Radical Right. Last year we defeated a similar measure in Maine. In 1994, despite a Republican sweep in the elections, voters rejected anti-gay measures in Oregon and Idaho. In 1992, Oregon defeated yet

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BiNet News

The Newsletter of the
Bisexual Network of the United States

Editrix

Alexei Guren

Regional News Editor

Wendy Naumann

Production and Layout

Alexei Guren

Columnists

Lani Ka'ahumanu

Fritz Klien

Contributors

Lani Ka'ahumanu

Gerard Palmieri

Deep Throated Queer

Karen Snelbecker

Moss Stern

Sharon Snyder

Jeff Walsh

Beth Firestein

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BiNet USA Coordinators

Stephanie Berger

Arthur Freehart

Alexei Guren

Laura Perez

Gary North

Victor Raymond

BiNet USA Delegates

Northeast Region:

Kirstin Isgro & Emily Pitts

Tri-State Region:

Jennifer Hadlock & Juno Stewart

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Kate Clemm & Carla Fischer

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Northwest Region:

Vacant Positions

Midwest Region:

Wendy Naumann & Vacant Position

Pacific Coast and Islands Region:

Francine Turner & Roland Sintos Coloma

(See Page 10 for contact information)

1996 DEADLINES:

Issue	Deadline
Spring (May)	Apr. 1st
Summer (Aug)	Jul. 1st
Fall (Nov)	Oct 1st
Winter 97(Feb)	Dec. 1st



RANTING FROM THE EDITRIX

Hi Again!

Well another issue of BiNet News is out and making it's way all over the US and Abroad... that's right, this little ol' publication is being read by bisexuals not just in the United States, but in countries like Canada, Australia, Holland, and Britain. I invite all of our readers outside of the US to send in articles, stories and the like about their own experiences and issues that are important to them and share them with us.

For those of you that haven't heard yet, BiNet USA will be holding it's Annual Meeting in San Francisco on August 16th - 18th. The committee in charge of setting this up has been hard at work thinking all those logistical thoughts to make a successful event. Thanks!!! In the business of activism it's often that we forget to thank all the people that help put something together, so please if your attending please take the time to find out who was helping and to seek them out and say thank you... it really makes all the work and aggravation of putting somethin like this together worthwhile.

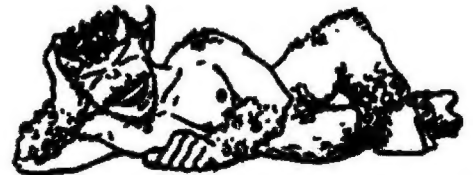
There is information about the Meeting in the newsletter as well as a Registration Form, if you know for sure that you'll be attending please fill this out and send it out now... you'll save yourself alot of time in line at the Registration Table. There is also a Housing and Travel Form, this year we have made an extra effort to get as many Delegates, as well as Youth to be at this years Annual Meeting. Please be aware that monies are limited so Delegates please start fundraising NOW, for yourselves as well as Youth in order that everyone can make it!

I also want to thank the few people that sent in new name suggestions for the BiNet News... but I would really like to have to figure out what name to choose from 50 or more entries.... unless of course you like the name "BiNet News", in which case I would expect you to drop me a note telling me to knock it off and leave the name alone <grin>. So, let's see some mail.

And speaking of mail, how do you all (yes, my southern cuban roots are showing!) feel about how the newsletter is looking? I would love to get some feedback about what you love, like, dislike or hate. It's not easy puttin one of these things together and I would like a sense of what things need to be added or changed to make this publication one you forward to receiving in the mail.

Well, I got to run... it's time to start working on the next issue of BiNet News!

If you want to call or send me stuff, you'll find my phone and address in the Contact Pages or you can e-mail me at: Alexei_Guren@msn.com



The Same-Sex Marriage Debate - Should we care?

by Gerard Palmieri

What does same-sex marriage have to do with bisexual people?

Obviously, bisexual people can be and are a part of same-sex relationships. Bisexuals partner with lesbian, gay, or bisexual people of the same sex and having a same-sex partner does not change a bisexual person's identity. Bisexual people are part of all of our communities and should have the same choices as all including marriage. So if you see men together or women together, don't assume their sexual identity: they could all be bisexual.

What is up with this marriage business?

A few years ago a case was brought in the state of Hawai'i challenging the law that two people who are classified as the same sex are not legally allowed to be married. This case is named *Baehr v. Miike*. The case was argued on grounds of sex discrimination. [Note: The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) passed in Hawai'i back in the mid-70s and became part of state constitution of Hawai'i.] It could be argued that a man was legally allowed to do something which a woman couldn't: namely, marry a woman. The judge ruled that the state of Hawai'i was wrong in this discrimination. The case was appealed by the state's attorney general. In the Appeals Court, the justice ruled that, not only was the original case correct, but also, in order to overturn the ruling, since this was a case of sex discrimination, the state of Hawai'i must be held to higher standard. [Note: Typically cases on same-sex marriage have been dismissed in the first place by the argument that the "will of the majority of the people" must take precedent.] The state of Hawai'i had

to show a *compelling interest* why this discrimination should continue. Since then there have been some legislative machinations in Hawai'i but generally we're waiting for the final appeals to be decided.

Why should we care?

Marriage, like many parts of life, is an issue of both individual human rights and access. For better or worse, a large part of the dynamic of our society is based on the marriage of a male and a female but the freedom to marry should not be denied based on the sex of one's partner. Healthy, life-affirming relationships should be the criteria.

Many people mention domestic partnerships in contrast to marriage. Domestic partnerships have a valid place in society, but there are many rights, responsibilities, and privileges associated with marriage. As long as domestic partnerships are different than marriage, same-sex couples will be deprived access and benefits. A healthy societal debate questioning why society grants any privilege or responsibility status to marriage in the first place might be constructive, but, until that occurs, this imbalance must be righted.

Recognizing same-sex marriages is not a burden or imposition on anyone. Marriage is a legal/civil agreement. Notice that both marriages and divorces are granted by state governments; no church would be forced to perform any ceremony which is not a part of its teachings. Again, a societal debate on the institution of marriage may be constructive, but, until then, same sex marriage does nothing else but encourage stability and commitment amongst our friends and relatives who may want to be married. Something, I'm sure, all our communities could use more of.

Editrix Note: This will also be available as a pamphlet from BiNet USA

(Continued from page 1)

another measure. In fact, Amendment 2 was the only state anti-gay ballot measure to be passed, even though it never went into effect. Now it too has been struck.

Let this be a message to the sponsors of these bills: The American people do not support your campaigns of intolerance and bigotry. They do not support discrimination against gays, lesbians and bisexuals. They do not want you tying up their courts in costly, prolonged legal battles. They do not want you to come to their communities to destroy and divide. Let this message be heard in every state where voters are considering anti-gay ballot measures in 1996 - on election day this year strike down your anti-gay ballot measures just as the Supreme Court has struck down Amendment 2.

Unfortunately, our victory today may be short-lived. Despite this ruling, the Radical Right will not stop. They are already evolving their measures to make them more difficult to challenge in court, such as the failed attempt in Maine last year that simply "omitted" gay people and others from the list of those protected against discrimination. They are launching other attacks, including anti-education measures that censor the teaching of diversity in public schools, or "parents rights" rhetoric that really tear apart families and communities instead of building stronger ones. Religious political extremists will not stop until they have advanced their broader, anti-democratic, repressive agenda. An agenda that rolls back civil rights for people of color; scapegoats gays, immigrants and others for our country's social and economic problems; and denies women constitutionally protected reproductive freedom.

That's why we call on all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people to remain vigilant. We call on all our families, friends, and neighbors, as well as all Americans of conscience to stand with us as we struggle for basic equal rights. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force launched its "Undo 2: The Supreme Response" campaign last October during hearings on the case. At that time scores of people in more than 35 cities held vigils and rallies to speak up for justice. Today, a similar number of communities were poised for this announcement - and fortunately they are celebrating, not protesting. We must now channel that action into long-term social change.

Today, NGLTF announces a 4-point "Supreme Response" call-to-action plan in the wake of this ruling. We anticipate a backlash from the radical right to this ruling, and must be prepared.

Our Supreme Response campaign will:

- (1) Organize events to celebrate the ruling within the next 48 hours. More than 40 cities are already slated to protest. We urge people to join in these actions and make their voices heard.
- (2) Call on elected officials in the U.S. Congress and in state and local governments to support comprehensive protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation. We ask them to sign our "Justice for All" resolution and immediately introduce civil rights laws in the next legislative session. We will work with our grassroots lobbying and NGLTF Cooperating organizations to mobilize a critical mass of support for local and state anti-discrimination measures. We call on President Clinton to lead the charge for federal anti-discrimination protections. President Clinton and other elected officials must do what the Supreme Court justices would not: ensure basic civil rights for gay, lesbian and bisexual Americans.
- (3) Gather activists from every state at our Creating Change Conference this November. We'll strategize on how to mobilize our communities and our allies to fight for basic equal rights, respond to the backlash, including fighting state ballot measures and other radical right attacks. Creating Change is the largest conference of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender activists in the country.

- (4) Launch through our NGLTF web page a "Supreme Response" electronic network to inform and mobilize activists nationwide. Log onto our web page at <http://www.nglftf.org> to get plugged into actions and information.

This is a momentous day for our movement and for all those who believe in personal liberty, justice and freedom. We are making progress toward ending intolerance and educating America about who we really are. At the same time we know our battle is not over. We must remain on guard and defend against what surely will be a backlash. With today's ruling, we are one important step closer to attaining our dream of a more compassionate and fair society.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is a progressive organization that has supported grassroots organizing and pioneered in national advocacy since 1973. Since its inception, NGLTF has been at the forefront of virtually every major initiative for lesbian and gay rights. In all its efforts, NGLTF helps to strengthen the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement at the state level while connecting these activities to a national vision for change.

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Contact:

Tracey Conaty, 202-332-6483, ext 3303;
tconaty@nglftf.org

Kerry Lobel, 202-332-6483, ext 3307
klobel@nglftf.org

Now Available

Bisexual Resource Guide ▼

Robyn Ochs, editor

Contains:

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The Bisexual Resource Guide, published by the Bisexual Resource Center, is available for only US\$8, postage paid. To order YOUR copy, send a check, along with your address to:

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WASHINGTON INSIDER

"DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT (DOMA)"

(OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
DOLE CAMPAIGN REHABILITATION ACT).

Submitted to Loraine Hutchins, in care of BiNet USA

Folks - this account was given to me by a deep-throated queer who was there but prefers, for job reasons, to remain nameless.

-Loraine

This week, hearings were held in the constitution subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee on the proposed "Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)" (otherwise known as the Dole Campaign Rehabilitation Act). The bill would define marriage for purposes of federal law as unions between a man and a woman, and would instruct states that they are allowed to ignore same-sex marriages if legalized in another state.

The hearings lasted nearly six hours. The presence of both Barney Frank and Pat Schroeder on the committee made up for what otherwise would have been a completely depressing way to spend the day for those in the audience. The subcommittee heard testimony from three panels of "experts," including legislators from three states, two right-wing radio talkshow hosts and to many lawyers to count.

Two openly queer people testified: Elizabeth Birch, the executive director of Human Rights Campaign and Andrew Sullivan, who until recently was the openly gay, anti-abortion, Catholic editor of the New Republic magazine (that is to say he is no longer the editor of the magazine, he is still anti-abortion, Catholic and openly gay). Frank was in top form, disrupting the hearings often with his quick wit and sharp tongue, even getting the right-wing experts to hilariously contradict their own testimony at times.

During the day, arguments went back and forth on the subject of states' rights and federal mandates. The Republican lawmakers attempted to make the point that the federal government should be and has always been in the business of telling states what type of marriages states should recognize. The example of the admission of the state of Utah to the union was used. The Republicans reminded the panelists that until Utah outlawed polygamy, it was not allowed into the union because the recognition of multiple marriages in one state would have forced recognition of multiple marriages in all states, thus recking havoc on states' ability to regulate marriage contracts (so the argument goes).

The same Republican committee member then went on later in the day to expand upon a point made by one of the right-wing talkshow hosts who commented rhetorically at the end of his statement that the same-sex marriage advocates were hypocritical. He said because gay rights activists don't believe in polygamy they were discriminating against bisexuals who "need" to be married to one woman and one man to be "satisfied."

The biphobia went back and forth as banter for a couple of minutes and was by far the low-point in the day. Even sadder was the fact that no same-sex marriage proponents spoke against the lies and distortions made against bisexuals.

The "bisexuality=polygamy=gay rights activists' hypocrisy" argument was central to the Republican lawmakers arguments that we can't give marriage rights to any queers. Biphobic myths and lies were the lynchpin to their arguments. Since no one disputed these lies in the subcommittee, you can expect more of this rhetoric to find its way in congressional records and broadcast into the homes of thousands of Americans via C-SPAN. Queer leaders must dispute biphobic lies to argue effectively for same-sex marriage, and judging from their silence this week, apparently need encouragement to do so.

Transsexual Menace Takes On Saturday Night Live

by Karen Snelbecker

On February 24, Saturday Night Live (SNL) aired a "Weekend Update" segment about the recent death sentence of convicted murderer John Lotter. Lotter brutally murdered transsexual man Brandon Teena and two of his friends in Falls City, Nebraska. SNL regular Norm MacDonald decided that this was a humorous event, and stated "I believe everyone involved in this story should die."

Members of the Transsexual Menace were outraged by this sick humor, and began intensive discussions with NBC officials. The Menace threatened to picket the show as it resumed production, but they called off the picket after reaching a satisfactory agreement with NBC.

NBC officials in Standards and Practices and Community Relations agreed to deliver a packet of information to MacDonald and the SNL staff, including graphic details of the rape and murder of Teena, and pictures of twenty-year-old Teena and his friends. While MacDonald and NBC representatives privately agreed that the joke was in poor taste and that NBC would not repeat similar jokes in the future, they have refused to air a public apology because it is against their corporate policy.

Said NYC Menace member Riki Anne Wilchins, in a letter to MacDonald, "Another transperson is brutally murdered in a fairly unambiguous hate crime every 4-5 months. This will not change with better laws or more legislation. It will change when we are no longer considered disposable people....It will change when people no longer find the violence of our lives a fit and amusing response for our having crossed gender lines. We will continue to die violent deaths, Mr. MacDonald, until people's attitudes change." (February 27, 1996)

What does this all mean for bisexuals who are not transgendered? We too cross gender lines, by seeing that men and women are not so different that we can't love both (or by being the partners of transgendered people). We too are often called "disposable" or "invisible" or "unnatural." Transgendered people are our natural allies, and we should support them wherever we can. While this particular media event resulted in an opportunity to educate NBC, perpetuation of myths about transpeople and violence against them will continue, and we should confront it. We can also learn from the Menace's ability to influence the media in such a powerful way. Finally, in the largest sense, when a transperson is sanctioned for expressing gender in a "nontraditional" way, all of us lose the freedom to express our gender in whatever way we choose.

Karen Snelbecker is a bisexual woman who gets called "sir" a lot.



The Desirability of Various Sexual Acts by People of Different Sexual Orientations

by Dr. Fritz Klein

INTRODUCTION

Do people of different sexual orientations react differently with respect to sexual acts? Are there differences between bisexuals and straights, between female bisexuals and lesbians, bisexual males and gays in their desire of different sexual acts?

Dr. Weinrich and I studied a group of people during the last two years which dealt with 1) the desirability of various sexual acts by people of different sexual orientations 2) the desirability of various body parts and 3) types of relationship desirability. This article will only summarize some of the findings of the first of the three topics.

The population was drawn from various sources: a) bisexual meetings, b) bisexual support groups, c) electronic interest groups on commercial on-line services and d) newsgroups on the internet. This sample certainly does not constitute a random sample of any population.

In the study, there were 322 respondents of which 120 were women and 212 were men. The women's average age was 32 while for the men it was 36 (which was statistically different). The level of education was not different for the sexes and the population was highly educated with over 2/3 being college graduates or having a higher degree. Only less than 5% had only 1) a high school degree or 2) some high school with the rest having attended some college.

Almost half of the respondents were single, more than 35% were married and only 14% were either divorced or separated. Around 15% were in a committed lesbian/homosexual relationship.

Subjects completed the Klein Sexual Orientation Grid (found in "The Bisexual Option" by Fritz Klein). This questionnaire consists of 21 items grouped into 7 sexual orientation variables; for each variable the subjects rated themselves 3 times (for the Past, Present and Ideal) on a scale from 1 to 7. By using cluster analysis (a statistical technique) we were able to distinguish 4 distinct groups for the women and 5 for the men (as there were twice as many male respondents). The 4 groups for both sexes were: Straight, Bi-straight, Bi-lesbian/gay, Lesbian/Gay. The men's fifth group was Bi-bi.

When the nine different groups were analyzed for frequency of masturbation, we found no statistical difference though the Bi-straight women were more likely to be above the median for the sample as a whole (their median being 10 while the other groups ranged from 2.5 to 5). For men, the Bi-bis and Bi-gays were more likely to be above the median (their medians being 17 and 20 respectively as compared to 11 to 14 for the other three male groups).

When we compared the four female groups with respect to frequency of sexual contacts there was a statistical difference at the .05 level with the Bi-straight women having more contacts. They had a median of 10 contacts in the previous month as compared to 2 to 4 for the other three groups. For the males, there was no difference between the groups.

Bi-Straight women had a higher mean (12) than the other females groups (8) and this raised the scores for women when all the groups were averaged together. However, for males, all the groups had mean scores between 6 and 7.

For the number of partners, we found that similarly as in masturbation there was no statistical difference between the groups for the women. However, both Bi groups were more likely to be above the median as compared to the Straight and Lesbian women. For the men, there was a statistical difference at the .01 level with the Straight men being more likely to have none or one partner only as compared to the Bi and Gay men.

Sexual Acts

Each respondent was asked to rate the desirability of various sexual acts with both men and women on a 5 point scale from least sexually exciting to most sexually exciting. The sexual acts covered (both active and passive where appropriate) were: kissing, cuddling or holding, fellatio, cunnilingus, breast stimulation, masturbation, digital-anal and oral-anal activity, vaginal intercourse, and anal intercourse.

The desirability of different sexual acts was dependent on the person's sexual orientation. So for example female heterosexuals enjoyed fellating a man while lesbians did not. This of course is not surprising. However, some acts were generally popular and others generally unpopular regardless of sexual orientation.

Factor Analysis of Sexual Acts

In a study like this, it's easy to get lost in all the details. There are so many different acts, so many different categories of people — how can we sort through this mountain of detail and pick out the results which are really interesting? Is there any scientific way to make generalizations about the findings? Yes there is. By using a technique called factor analysis we were able to look at people's responses to all of the sex-act items and to group together the items which tended to be answered similarly by different subjects. It showed that there were three important groups (or factors) for the sex acts with men and 2 for the acts with women — regardless of whether it was the male respondents or female respondents whose ratings we examined:

Three groups of sex acts with men

Factor A: Affectionate acts (such as kissing and cuddling)

Factor B: Sex acts (such as masturbation, fellatio, and intercourse)

Factor C: Anal acts (digital-anal and oral-anal activity and anal intercourse)

Two groups of sex acts with women

(Continued on page 15)

Curiously, she didn't seem to interpret the Kinsey research findings as evidence of bisexuality. She was aware of the "Kinsey scale"; she understood it to mean that people exist somewhere on a continuum from heterosexual (0) to homosexual (6); yet somehow she, like most people, didn't understand the significance of those individuals who represent the values of 1 through 5!

The general consensus of people who saw the recent NBC Dateline segment addressing bisexuality was "I'd be happy to have anyone in my family see it." The program contradicted many stereotypes and left one with the feeling of "two thumbs up" for mainstream media's positive representation of bisexuals. The three bisexuals interviewed were articulate, came from very different backgrounds and spoke honestly about their feelings and identity.

Stern continued, "What Dr. Ruth really wants is to see Masters-and-Johnson-type studies that prove that, for example, '10% of all males will become erect at the sight of either a naked woman or a naked man.' If anyone can furnish her with data of this sort, I believe it would completely clinch this issue in her mind. Anything short of it may leave her agnostic about bisexuality."

BiUnity presented her with a copy of Bi Any Other Name, BiNet USA's Newsletter, and Anything That Moves. They also referred her to the work of Dr. Fritz Klein, author of The Bisexual Option. Ka'ahumanu, a catalyst for the BiUnity action, also had written a letter to Dr. Ruth which was published in the Daily Pennsylvanian BGLAD Awareness Days supplement to coincide with her appearance. Members of New York City's GLAAD Bisexual Caucus drafted a letter as well.

If you have the opportunity to hear Dr. Ruth ask the obvious questions, be visible, talk with her afterwards. She wants to be educated and we are the living, if not the scientific, proof bisexuality exists.

"Mentally I'm probably bisexual."
Dennis Rodman, basketball player
Quote from his new book

"Madonna said that she doesn't care if it's a boy or girl, as long as it's bisexual."

★ Jay Leno, Host Tonight Show ★
★ opening monologue, March, 1996 ★

Regional News

Regional News Editor

Wendy Naumann

Regional Delegates and members can send in Regional News pieces and Regional Reports directly to:

Wendy Naumann
2544 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 476-0314

for you virtual reality bi's you can also e-mail:
wnaumann@unlinfo.unl.edu

(Editrix note: Wendy asks that whenever possible to send her stuff via e-mail.)



Northeast Region

History was made on April 29, 1996, when longtime Boston bisexual activist Laura Sachs was elected President of the Boston Pride Committee Board of Directors. The vote was unanimous! Laura is the first out bisexual in the country to hold such a position. Pride Without Borders, Boston 1996, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies was held in early June. Congratulations Laura, you go girl!

The Northeast Region is in the beginning stages of planning its Fall Regional Meeting which will be tentatively held in Portland, Maine. Please contact one of the regional delegates if you are interested in assisting or obtaining more information.

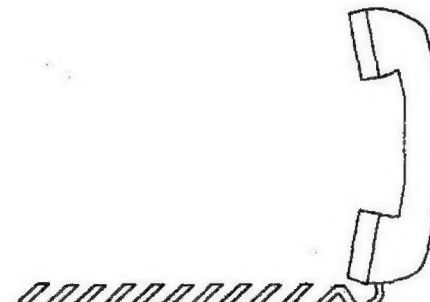
The Vermont Bisexual Network has been active in Pride events and other organizing. On May 4th, the organization was represented at Pride Day in North Hampton and are actively involved in the organizing for the Vermont Pride Parade. The Vermont Bisexual Network, in conjunction with a number of other queer organizations, sponsored a three stop speaking engagement for Dr. Elias Faraje-Jones. Unfortunately, the event had to be cancelled due to Dr. Faraje-Jones becoming ill.

There are also a number of groups which are either active or beginning in the state of Vermont. One Friday night a month, there is a Bi coffee/tea. There is also a Bi Women's Support Group and a Bi Married Support Group. If you are interested in either of these groups, please contact one of the regional delegates.

Tri-State Region

In the last year in Connecticut a new bisexual political group called Conn-Bi-Nation began meeting on the second Sunday of each month at the Hartford GLBT Community Center. The group has a newsletter, Speakers Bureau, and Bi Rap group. One focus for the group is to advocate for bisexuals to be included in statewide organizations as well as pride and facilitate workshops on bisexuality at conferences. Currently, Conn-Bi-Nation is gearing up for Pride. They received a grant from C.I.C.A. and are trying to do fundraising to do more publicity and outreach. They are also working on getting the local feminist bookstore to have a bisexual shelf and to have the topic of bisexuality more frequently discussed in the local queer media.

In New York City, bisexuals have been organizing regular Bisexual Orientation Days at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center for quite awhile. GLAAD started a Bi Caucus and the group is trying to keep up with all the current media coverage on bisexuals. They are responding to



**Get involved
now !!!**

**Contact your
Regional Delegates**



egative comments made by Dr. Ruth on Dateline and have held a Bi Forum which was very successful.

On July 19 and 20 in New York City at the Gay and Lesbian Community center, BiNet is planning a Bisexual Gathering. The GLAAD Bi Caucus will have a featured Bi Forum entitled "Bisexuality in the Media: Confusing the Issues?" Please call one of the regional delegates for more information.

Mid-Atlantic Region

The Mid-Atlantic Region has once again held it's BINET USA - MIDATLANTIC REGION 2ND ANNUAL RETREAT. Individuals from DC, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia attended. The event was held on May 24 to Sunday, May 26 at the Tall Timbers Camp in West Virginia, the same place the retreat was held the year before.

Planners hope to continue the community-building that came out of last year's retreat. As well as creating a space to meet and interact with other bisexuals in a safe place. And besides it' is also a lot of fun!!!

I'm sure that we'll be hearing lot's more about the Retreat in the next issue of BiNet News.

Southeast Region

Members of North Carolina Bisexual Network (NCBiNet) were invited to participate in two speaking engagements: one at CLOSER, a lesbigay support group in Asheville, North Carolina on March 19, and one at B-GLAD student organization for Eastern Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, on April 10. Christopher Hunter, Donna Persinger, Kate Clemm, and Kathy Grim, as representatives of NCBiNet, spoke to these groups to discuss bisexuality, personal experiences, give out resource information, and field questions concerning bisexuality. NCBiNet hopes to continue to send members out for speaking engagements of this kind to other groups interested in exploring the topic of bisexuality.

NCBiNet members participated in North Carolina Pride 1996, June 7-9, in Winston-Salem this year. Renee Seay coordinated a Bisexual 101S workshop, Kathy Grim was the bisexual speaker at the rally, and NCBiNet also had an information table at the rally. The Secretary for the NC Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride, Inc. Board of Directors attended the NCBiNet quarterly meeting on May 18 to invite bisexuals to apply to the Pride Board.

Members of the Raleigh Chapter of the Triangle Bisexual Network (RTBN) were invited to facilitate a discussion of bisexuality during a recent Gay and Lesbian Helpline training session. As a result, RTBN was invited to become official affiliates of Triangle Community Works!, a local coalition of queer and queer-friendly organizations brought together to disseminate positive information about gay, lesbian, and bisexual people and to foster communication between gay, lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual communities. RTBN was then invited to select a representative to sit on the TCW!Us Board of Directors, and to participate in local fundraising efforts. It is hoped that a greater visibility and interaction of bisexuals in the Raleigh queer and queer-friendly community will send a positive message and an increased awareness of bisexuals and the value of our contributions to our community!

The Orlando Bi Group has been busy in May they hosted a St. Augustine Beach party. For June they'll be taking a Bisexual Outing at the "Gay Day" at Disney World - think of all the Gay men and Lesbians that will finally get to meet a real bisexual! They'll also be participating with a Bisexual Booth at this years Orlando Pride Fest (June 15th) and local Bi Activist Kris Roehling will be a featured speaker at the Pride Rally after the Pride Day Parade (June 29th).

Midwest Region

The Midwest Region is currently looking for a regional delegate, and anyone who is interested can contact Wendy Naumann at (402)476-0314 or wnaumann@unlinfo.unl.edu. Lou Hoffman finished her two-year term in April, and her dedication and experience will be greatly missed. We'll miss you, Lou!

In April, BECAUSE, the Midwest regional conference, was held in Minneapolis. The keynote speaker was Dr. Elias Farije-Jones, and the theme for the conference was "Wisdom Comes Through the Ages". Age-related issues were discussed in the forum of a panel which was racially diverse and trans inclusive. Attendance for BECAUSE has steadily increased over the years, and this year the diversity represented at the conference has also expanded. As usual, the conference was a great success.

Central Region

South Central Region

Southwest Region

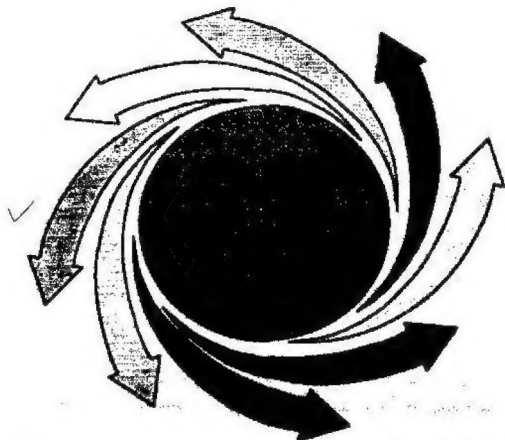
Northwest Region

Regional Delegate Adam Wills has resigned his post for personal reasons, any one interested in volunteering as an Interim Delegate is asked to contact Alexei Guren at 206-567-5558. Currently this region has no Delegates and it would be great to get these 2 positions filled quickly, so that the NW Region is represented at this years Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

In Oregon, once again BiNet Oregon is hosting it's 3rd annual NW regional summer gathering, in the heart of the Wenatchee Forest. The event will be from June 10th to June 14th. Participants will need to bring food, water, cooking supplies and the usual collection of camping equipment. No pets allowed, and parents are advised to consider whether or not to bring children as this event will be as always clothing optional. For more information you can call the Bi-Line at 503-299-4764 or call Kurt at 503-622-5401 or 503-703-8013.

Pacific Coast & Islands Region

Just a quick update: As a member of the Steering Committee for the University of California systemwide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Association (UCLGBT), I have been able to inform them, by email, about BiNet USA as well as the August meeting in San Francisco. I have had over a dozen responses and in-quer-ies over the past two days. Isn't that wonderful!?!? Definitely more folks for BiNet. I'll be sending them more detailed info regarding BiNet mission/by-laws and the August meeting agenda. Thanks to Stephanie and Alexei, I didn't have to type that much more.



BiNet USA

PO Box 7327
Langley Park, MD 20787
(202) 986-7186

National Coordinators and Regional Delegates Winter 96

NATIONAL COORDINATORS

BiNET NEWS EDITOR

Alexei Guren
10515 SW 110th Street, Vashon Island, WA 98070
(206) 567-5558
alexei_guren@msn.com

MEDIA SPOKESPERSON

Stephanie Berger
170 E. Ridge Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583
(510) 735-6250
virago@slip.net

TREASURER

Victor Raymond
3645 Bloomington Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 721-9635
raymond@macalstr.edu

RECORDING SECRETARY

Gary North
PO Box 20917, Longbeach, CA 90801
(800) JULY-DOT
gibbin@aol.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Laura Perez
258 San Carlos, San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 550-1065

Arthur Freehart
2709 Portland Ave S. #2, Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 872-9613

REGIONAL DELEGATES

DELEGATES FOR THE NORTHEAST REGION:

*MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE,
RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT*

Kirstin Isgro
27 Germain Street, Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 658-9554

Emily Pitts
328 College St. #4, Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 865-4829

DELEGATES FOR THE TRI-STATE REGION:

CONNECTICUT, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK

Jennifer Hadlock
176 Whitney Street, Hartford, CT 06105
(860) 232-2643
jen@webspinner.smart.net

Juno Stewart
Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105
(860) 236-8465

DELEGATES FOR THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION:

*DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, DELAWARE, MARYLAND,
PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA*

Marcella Buckman
12907 Cookston Lane, #25, Rockville, MD 20851
(301) 816-0373
quest@access.digex.net

Margaret Rood
2302 Meridian Street, Falls Church, VA 22046
(703) 237-7930
mrood@netcom.com

DELEGATES FOR THE SOUTHEAST REGION:

*ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, MISSISSIPPI,
NORTH CAROLINA, PUERTO RICO, SOUTH CAROLINA,
TENNESSEE, VIRGIN ISLANDS*

Kate Clemm
1414 Brookside Dr., #202, Raleigh, NC 27604
(919) 828-6191
kecclemm@med.unc.edu

Carla Fischer
PO Box 533170, Orlando, FL 32853
(407) 898-1798

DELEGATES FOR THE MIDWEST REGION:

*IOWA, KANSAS (ALL OF KANSAS CITY), MINNESOTA,
NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA,
UPPER MICHIGAN, WISCONSIN*

Wendy Naumann
2544 P St., Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 476-0314
wnaumann@unlinfo.unl.edu

1 Position Vacant

DELEGATES FOR THE CENTRAL REGION:

*ILLINOIS, INDIANA, KENTUCKY, LOWER MICHIGAN,
MISSOURI, OHIO*

Mel Merry
5619 N Winthrop, #3R
(312) 275-0186
mbeaucoup@aol.com

1 Position Vacant

DELEGATES FOR THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGION:

*ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, OKLAHOMA,
TEXAS*

Deborah Dixon
2602 Salerno Drive, Dallas, TX 75224
(214) 946-5852
morigel@argusbbs.com

David Lewis
4709 Twin Valley Drive, Austin, TX 78731
(512) 458-5612
dave@lim.com

DELEGATES FOR THE SOUTHWEST REGION:

*ARIZONA, COLORADO, NEW MEXICO,
NEVADA, UTAH*

Linda Farrelly
8601 N Zuni, #105, Denver, CO 80221
(303) 430-7656

Ron Owens
2100 W Chandler Blvd., # 36-105, Chandler, AZ 85224
(602) 280-9074

DELEGATES FOR THE NORTHWEST REGION:

*ALASKA, IDAHO, OREGON,
MONTANA, WASHINGTON, WYOMING*

2 Positions Vacant

**DELEGATES FOR THE PACIFIC COAST
AND ISLANDS REGION:**

CALIFORNIA, GUAM, HAWAII

Francine Turner
354 Wisconsin Ave, Long Beach, CA 90814
(310) 434-2247
fturner@netcom.com

Roland Sintos Coloma
PO Box 56829, Riverside, CA 92517
(909) 220-3555 pager
(909) 787-7272 work
rscoloma@pop.ucr.edu

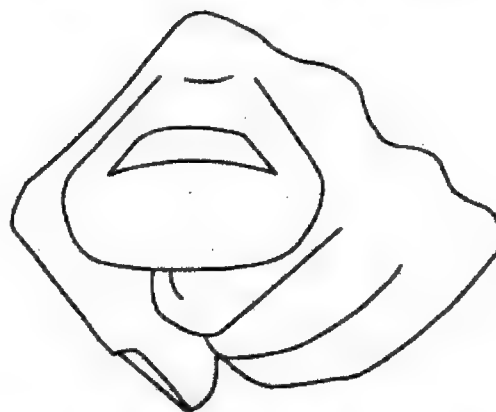
**STARTING A NEW GROUP OR
WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE
NEAREST GROUP IS???**

**HAVE AN EVENT YOU'D LIKE
LISTED IN *BINET NEWS*????**

**LIKE TO SEE YOUR
ORGANIZATION OR LOCAL
ACTIVIST PROFILED IN *BINET
NEWS*???**

**CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL
DELEGATES...**

**HELP BINET USA
WORK
FOR YOU!!!**



PROFILES

ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE BISEXUAL COMMUNITY

This is the place to talk about your organization. How'd it start, what's it doing and where's it going? Share its accomplishments, dreams and pitfalls. Individuals can also be profiled and they don't have to be a famous bi-activist either. Just a bi or bi-friendly person who's story you think everyone everyone should know about.

Hap Stewart

by Lani Ka'ahumanu

On a sunny Friday morning on March 15th I called my friend Hap Stewart to check in, to see how he was doing, to see when I could come visit with him again. "Sorry to have to share the news, Hap passed away. Monday, March 11th. He was peaceful and comfortable at home with his daughter and close friends by his side. Thank you for your love and kindness with Hap, I hope his memory of love and light carries you this week."

The message was not unexpected. On several occasions Hap told me he "wouldn't see another year." I knew time with him was precious and still....

The words don't come easily. I have to bury another friend, another passionate and wise soul, another activist, another fierce and proud bisexual man. Several weeks earlier Hap had shared his plans for his memorial service and wake: the music, the readings, the speakers, the gathering afterwards. As I drove across the Golden Gate Bridge I thought about all the other memorial services I've attended over the years. I remembered when I consciously stopped counting how many people I knew had died of AIDS. I tried to remember how many years have passed since I had stopped at one hundred. I thought about and then questioned the healthy denial that keeps me sane...

I sat in the back of the church and listened to lesbian pioneer, Reverend Janie Spahr, speak eloquently and lovingly of her friendship with him. "Hap was a bisexual man. A visible bisexual man with a wry grin, a knowing smile," she said. "A deeply spiritual man, Hap would look you right in the eye and you would always feel drawn in, recognized. He would wait, and listen." The Reverend Spahr shared how they became friends, "Those of us in the Marin gay and lesbian community were just organizing, just feeling our strength and gaining visibility and a voice." Hap met with her. He came out and asked about the inclusion of bisexual people. His bottom line was simple she said, "He asked, 'Isn't it really about love, love beyond labels?'"

I had known Hap as an AIDS activist who was an out bisexual. Her recognition of his bisexuality, and her appreciation of him and what his bisexual activism meant to her, and to the Marin lesbian and gay community were words that caught me completely off guard, reached deep inside my soul and tapped my own isolation. The years of healthy denial reached critical mass and the flood of unexpressed grief held back for too many years, for too many deaths, of too many friends spilled out of control. I sat alone crying, comforted by her stories.

A few weeks after they met, Hap showed her a book he was in and invited her and several of the other lesbian and gay activists to a reading of *Bi Any Other Name*. Reverend Spahr told how she and the others sat in the front row of the bookstore as Hap, and the co-editor (me), and the other contributors read from the book and then lead a discussion on bisexuality.

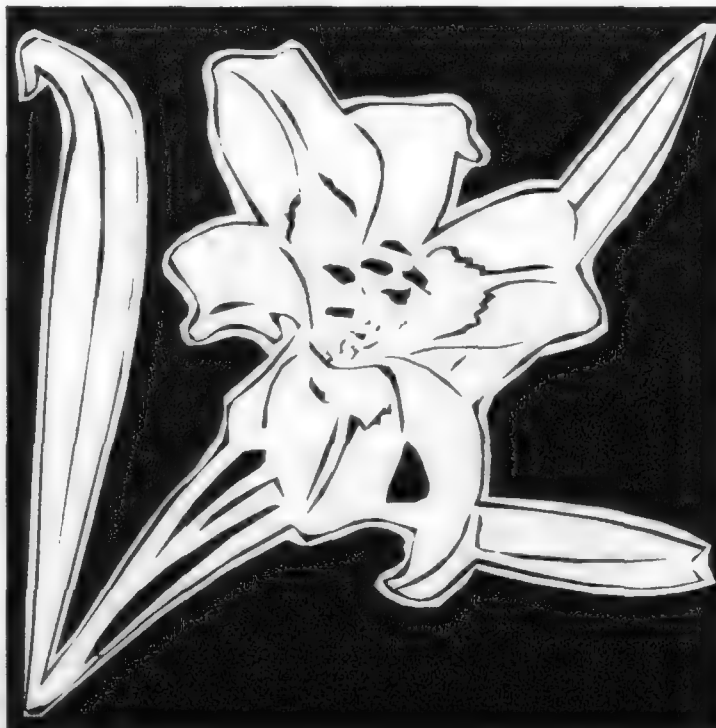
She soon noticed "about 25 people standing on the periphery casually looking at magazines, books, cards, and newspapers. They were definitely listening but felt uncomfortable sitting down. Hap showed us another closet within our community." She laughed and paused, "And just when we got the bisexual piece down, Hap brought up the inclusion of transgender people. He always spoke to the inclusion of all people. He reminded us of race and class issues, sexism and heterosexism, moving beyond labels to the heart of people, and honoring differences."

Hap was 62 years old, a longtime survivor of HIV infection, and a member of ACT UP. A motorcyclist with a multi-zippered leather jacket, he rode alone to Texas to visit his grandchildren last year. He told me he lived life "touching the mystery." I last saw him on February 15th. He was always glad to see me. We talked about the CMV in his intestinal track, about his frustration with doctors and western medicine, and the pain, the morphine barely touched. Most of his calorie intake went into his arm, but the meal delivered this day was roast chicken and mashed potatoes... comfort food that made him smile. We talked about our children, our grown children, his two daughters and son, his grandchildren. How even as he was in the streets protesting his son was re-enlisting for the Gulf War. "Most people don't think about parents as activists, while children patriotically march off to war." We talked about our lives, civil rights, spirituality, activism. The 60s was his favorite political decade Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King and organizing against the Viet Nam War. We talked about inclusion and unity across many lines, a vision of real change, and the hope and passion of that time.

Between the pain and the exhaustion he wasn't up for a visit but he "appreciated the phone calls." The message on his machine was not unexpected.

Hap, I thank you for inspiring me and encouraging me to live life "touching the mystery" for giving me permission to grieve Gil, Alan, Dan, Douglas, David, John, Cynthia, Ron, Darroll, Bobby, Tede, Allen, Chris, Tim, Eric, Alphonse, Simeon, Drew, Tom, Randy, Randy, Jeff, Brian, and all the names and faces I cannot remember anymore.

I thank you Hap Stewart for opening my heart again. ACT UP Fight Back, we have lost another precious bisexual to AIDS.



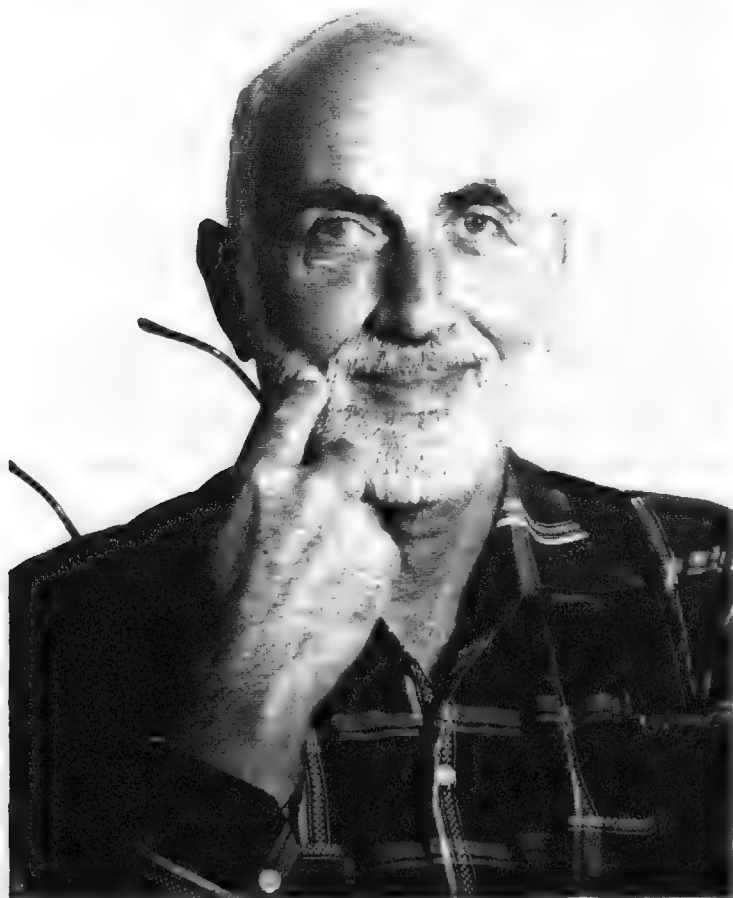
Dr. Fritz Klein Researcher and Southern Californian Activist

Presented with Award from BiNet USA at 3rd Annual Southern California Conference on Bisexuality

Some bisexual men and women are comfortable, even passionate about "being" activists. For some though, the word activist isn't a comfortable fit, or one that they would necessarily take-on for themselves. I would guess that author and researcher Dr. Fritz Klein falls into that second category. I don't think he would call himself an activist. Yet when I look at his life and the contributions he has made over the years I am struck by how integral his work has been to my well being and positive sense of self as a bisexual and an activist.

Although we wear different hats, and have different styles I believe Dr. Fritz Klein is an activist. I believe this because our movement has many fronts and many facets. On each of these fronts there are pioneers who took risks, who dared the status quo of the time, and who questioned the given paradigms. Dr. Fritz Klein is one of those pioneers who actively challenged people.

So I had great fun "detaining" Dr. Klein on the stage when he finished his welcoming speech at the 3rd Annual Southern California Conference on Bisexuality held in Long Beach this past February. To his surprise, I introduced BiNet USA national coordinator Stephanie Berger who, on behalf of the six national coordinators presented an award of special recognition to Dr. Fritz Klein....



Profiles in Courage: Jamie Nabozny, 20, of Minneapolis, Minnesota

reprinted - By Jeff Walsh, Oasis Editor

As a teenager, Jamie Nabozny tried to kill himself just so he wouldn't have to go to school.

From seventh to eleventh grade at Ashland Middle and Ashland High Schools in Wisconsin, Nabozny was: harassed, spit on, mock-raped while other students laughed, urinated on, called a "fag" by a teacher and kicked repeatedly in the stomach by his fellow students. He eventually dropped out of school.

"My life will never be the same because of the things that have happened to me," Nabozny said.

The middle school principal told Nabozny and his parents that "boys will be boys," regarding the assaults, and that if Nabozny "was going to be so openly gay, that he had to expect this kind of stuff to happen."

Nabozny, now 20 and living in Minneapolis, is the plaintiff in a federal lawsuit against his former school, its administrators and principals for not protecting Nabozny from the constant abuse. It is an appeal of a judge's previous ruling in favor of the school.

"This isn't going to happen to anybody else," Nabozny says. "People need to realize that this is happening and that they can't do it. A lot of times it's unfortunate, but in this country people will do things that aren't right until they are told they can't. Another school, another teacher is going to realize if I do this I can get sued. It's unfortunate, but it happens."

Nabozny's suit seeks punitive damages from the school, as well as other concessions which would allow him to attend a graduation ceremony at the school.

"I knew I was gay ... I basically dealt with it."

Nabozny says he was always a shy, quiet kid and a good student. He first dealt with his sexuality when he was 11 years old.

"In sixth grade, I realized I was gay and came out to my parents. It wasn't a total acceptance on my part, or my parents' for that matter. But I realized I was gay and that it wasn't going to change," he says. "I basically dealt with it and accepted it."

Nabozny's parents noticed he was depressed. After repeatedly asking what was bothering him, he finally told them. "My mom said she probably knew before the meeting and she just needed to hear it from me," he says.

The name-calling began at school after people realized Nabozny had been the victim of sexual abuse. "It started out as people found out about a sexual abuse case that ended up in the media that involved me," he says. "I had been abused by my youth minister at my church. When that became public, my name wasn't in the paper or anything, but it's a small enough town, people figured it out. And then people started calling me names. I didn't acknowledge it, nor did I deny it until I was 15."

The name-calling led to the harassment and assaults, which made Nabozny's parents deal with his sexuality quicker than they would have preferred. "After telling my parents, they went into denial, but then all this stuff started happening at school and they couldn't deny it anymore or pretend it didn't exist," he says. "They had to deal with the fact that I was gay because they had to deal with the fact that I was being harassed because of it. With their acceptance, I came to accept it more."

"I was gay and it didn't matter. This shouldn't have been happening to me."

When Nabozny was physically and verbally harassed in school, he didn't keep quiet or hide. He went to the school officials, told them he was gay, and demanded the abuse stop. Sometimes officials would meet with the abusive students and it would settle down for a while, but it would always start up again. Nabozny never told any of the students he was gay at that point.

"I got tired of this happening, and people always saying 'Why don't you just tell them you're not gay? Why don't you just tell them you're not gay? They'll leave you alone,'" he says. "But at that point, it wasn't about that. I was gay and it didn't matter. This shouldn't have been happening to me. So, confirming it, I thought, may actually lead to them leaving me alone. Because it wouldn't be that they were guessing I'm gay and harassing me because of it."

Nabozny was 15 when he came out to his fellow students. He didn't know any other gay students at his school, and even if other gay students were there, they wouldn't have talked to Nabozny.

"Everybody was too afraid to talk to me, because people would think they were gay," he says. "I did have two ... and I wouldn't even call them friends, we were so different. We were only together because we were the social outcasts of the school. It was a Jehovah's Witness girl and a schizophrenic girl, who wasn't there half the time. We wouldn't hang out after school, we'd sit together at lunch time or whatever, but that was it."

"I did start a gay youth group when I was going to school there, because I wanted a place where I could just go and talk," he says. "I thought maybe there would be other kids who would end up going because they wouldn't have to worry about talking to me in school, but that didn't happen."

Growing up, Nabozny did have a gay best friend whom he had met when he was eleven. "We grew up together in Ashland. He moved there and then we started hanging out," he says. "But he didn't go to school ever."

I want to have a normal life ... if that's possible."

Nabozny credits his parents with his being alive today. "Without them, I don't think I would have made it. I would get really depressed and very suicidal," he says. "A lot of times, the only thing that would prevent me from killing myself is the fact that I didn't want to hurt my mom."

It was his parents who usually prompted any action against the abusive students. "I would go to the principal, explain what happened, and she (the principal) wouldn't do anything," he says. "I'd go home and tell my parents and my parents would call and demanded meeting. They wanted to confront the youths and the parents themselves. My parents were very angry and upset. They let the principal know that this wouldn't continue and they wanted something done."

In eleventh grade, Nabozny, with his parents' blessing and on the advice of his guidance counselor, dropped out of school. He has since gotten his GED.

"In December of my eleventh grade year, we had a meeting with my parents and guidance counselor at school, and we decided the best thing for me to do was to leave," he says. "She (the guidance counselor) said 'I've tried to help you through this whole thing and nobody's willing to do anything.' My parents had a really hard time letting me go. So, I left and I moved down here (to Minneapolis)."

But finding a new school wasn't easy. "The high school I tried to go to decided it was going to be too difficult to have an openly gay student in their school, so they sent me to college," he says. "In Minnesota, they have something called post-secondary options. If you test out of high school, you can go to college."

Nabozny had to put college on hold because of his lawsuit. "After the lawsuit started going, I started doing depositions and a lot was going on with it, so I postponed it (college)," he says. "In the fall, I will definitely be going back no matter what. I realize I have put my life on hold for the last two years. Even if I win (the lawsuit), I'm two years behind where I have been."

Nabozny plans to get a master's degree in social work. "I want to work with

gay and lesbian youth," he says. "My ultimate goal would be to start group homes for gay and lesbian youth."

"Once my lawsuit's done, I want to sink back and have a private life again," he says. "I want to get married, have kids, and have a normal life if that's at all possible. But I still have five more years of school."

I'm going to go on, and I'm going to be okay"

Nabozny thinks another Ashland student also had trouble accepting his sexuality, but was unable to pull through his trouble. That boy killed himself after Nabozny was out of school for a couple of months.

"I didn't know he was gay, but when I was little, we used to mess around together. He ended up killing himself and leaving a note. The note was kept private," he says. "The family didn't want anyone to know what it had said, and I really believe that's what it had said. He actually did call me while I was in high school and he couldn't say anything."

"He said 'hi, this is so-and-so,' and I said 'hi.' He said, 'what are you doing?' And I said, 'I'm watching TV,' or whatever I was doing, and he just kind of said 'Oh' and he just shut up. I said 'are you there?', and he said 'Yeah, I got to go, I got to go.' And then he hung up."

"I believe wholeheartedly that's what happened and he was really having a lot of hard times with other things," Nabozny said. "He was really popular. He was in sports."

When Nabozny finally got out of Ashland schools and moved to Minneapolis, he didn't even think about filing a lawsuit against the school.

"When I first came down here, I wanted to put it behind me and just get on with my life. And I went to a place called the Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council and I was trying to find gay foster parents down here, because I had just turned 17," he said. "I needed to get back into school, and I couldn't exactly get a job. The crimes victim advocate was who I met with because she was there, and she told me what had happened to me was totally illegal and the school should be made held responsible for that."

"I didn't realize what was being done to me was illegal or wrong. I just thought it's a small town, they're very prejudiced, homophobic," he says. "I almost felt it was okay what they did to me, that they could get away with it. I knew it wasn't right, but I didn't know it was illegal until that point."

A few days later, the advocate found him an attorney, and the suit was filed. "I think the attorney who took this case in the first place thought this was going to be a quick thing and she was going to get her money and that was it. She didn't realize how involved it was going to be," he says.

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund wanted to be involved in his case from the beginning, but Nabozny's lawyer was against using their help.

"It was surprising to me, because when she took the case, I thought she was very sympathetic and it was going to be a good relationship," he says. "But she turned out to be quite homophobic and she did not want to be labeled as a gay rights advocate. She did not want this to be a gay case."

"When we lost, I had the opportunity not to continue with her representing me and Lambda was very interested in doing the appeal. I chose not to keep her because of the way she was," he says. "I wasn't able to do interviews. I wasn't able to talk to people. That was one of the important things about my case. If we lost and there was no public knowledge of my case, nobody would have realized this happened. Because of the fact it got publicity, people now know this happened. It's horrible, because the way the law is written right now, it can continue."

Continued in the next issue of BiNat News

Nabozny can be reached online at <jamie@calhoun.lakes.com>
The author, Jeff Walsh, may be contacted at <jeff@outproud.org>

(Continued from page 6)

Factor B: Sex acts (such as masturbation, cunnilingus and vaginal intercourse)

Factor C: Anal acts (just as for the men)

So factor analysis grouped men into 3 groups; what does this mean? It means that within each group, knowing a person's rating of one of the acts in that group helps to guess that person's rating of other acts in the same group, but is of almost no help in guessing their rating of acts in the other two groups. Thus our first conclusion is that anal sex acts are of a different dimension than other sex acts. If you know someone desires highly one type of an anal sex act, he or she probably desires other anal sex acts -- but you have no idea to what degree they will desire other sex acts. And vice versa: if you know that someone desires a lot of masturbation or vaginal sex, this doesn't help you predict how much that person will enjoy anal sex.

Notice that with women there was not a factor for affectionate acts. This reflects the fact that everyone -- all the orientations and both sexes -- report enjoying such acts with women. The other side of this coin is that there did appear a factor for affectionate acts with men. This probably results from the fact that heterosexual men differ strongly from homosexual (and bisexual) men in their desire strength for affectionate behaviors with other men.

A. Male Respondents

1. Sexual acts with other men showed the following patterns for the three types of sexual acts:

	<u>Str.</u>	<u>Bi-str</u>	<u>Bi-bi</u>	<u>Bi-gay</u>	<u>Gay</u>
Affectionate Acts	least	interm	high	high	high
Sexual Acts	low	high	high	high	high
Anal Acts	low	med	med	med	med

Note that in male-male sex activity, the straights had very little desire to have any such activity. However, the Bi men were very similar to the Gay males in both the sexual and anal acts while only the Bi-straights had slightly less desire for affectionate acts than the other three groups.

2. Sexual acts with women showed the following patterns for the two types of sexual acts:

	<u>Str.</u>	<u>Bi-str</u>	<u>Bi-bi</u>	<u>Bi-gay</u>	<u>Gay</u>
Sexual Acts	high	high	high	med	low
Anal Acts	med	high	med	med	low

Sexual acts were not as desired by the Bi-gay group as the other two more female-oriented Bi groups. This stands in contrast with sex with other men where all three Bi groups desired sexual acts as highly as the Gay males. With respect to anal sex with women, only the Bi-straight group desired such activity highly. The Gays had very little desire while the other groups indicated an intermediate value. We see that the Bi-straights in this activity are again more adventurous.

B. Female Respondents

1. Sexual acts with men showed the following patterns for the three types of sexual acts:

	<u>Str.</u>	<u>Bi-str</u>	<u>Bi-lesb</u>	<u>Lesb.</u>
Affectionate Acts	med	med	med	med
Sexual Acts	high	high	med	low
Anal Acts	low	med	low	low

a. Affectionate Acts: There was absolutely no differences by female respondents of the four different sexual orientations in their desirability of affectionate acts with men. Lesbians were just as willing to show affection (kissing and cuddling) to men as were the straight women. This finding would not have been predicted considering the negative feelings that some lesbians have towards men. On the other hand, the fact that for Straight women the average showed only a medium score might also point to many straight women also having negative feelings towards men.

b. Sexual Acts: Both Straights and Bi-straights desired them, Lesbians did not, while Bi-lesbians were intermediate between them, being closer to the straights than to the lesbians in their responses.

c. Anal Acts: Though all groups were low in their rating of desirability of anal acts, the Bi-straight women were somewhat higher than the other three groups.

2. Sexual acts with women showed the following patterns for the two types of sexual acts:

	<u>Str.</u>	<u>Bi-str</u>	<u>Bi-lesb</u>	<u>Lesb.</u>
Sexual Acts	low	med	high	high
Anal Acts	low	low	low	low

a. Sexual Acts: The Straights did not wish to engage in sexual acts with other women, the Bi-lesbians and Lesbians did have that desire while the Bi-straights were intermediate with ratings much closer to the Lesbians than the Straights.

b. Anal Acts: There were no differences between the four sexual orientation groups in their lack of desirability of engaging in anal acts with other women though the two Bi groups were higher (though not statistically different) than the mono-sexual groups.

I was not able to go into all the details of findings as it would take up much too much space in this publication. However, please let the editor know if you wish for me to discuss in the next issue the other two items we studied, namely differences in the desirability of body parts and relationship types.

BI ACTIVISM GOES GLOBAL

by Beth Firestein, Ph.D.

Beijing, China

The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women and the NGO Forum were held in Beijing, China in August and September. The NGO Forum consists of non-governmental organizations working on behalf of women. Some NGO's are accredited by the UN to attend the formal governmental proceedings which overlap with and continue beyond the Forum itself. The purpose of the Forum is to provide grassroots input into the deliberations of the United Nations governmental delegates in hopes of influencing the development of the Global Platform for Action, a document which will shape and influence governmental policies concerning women into the 21st century. The NGO Forum also provides an opportunity for women from different countries with like interests to network with one another and exchange information, ideas, and resources. International cooperative efforts on particular issues sometimes result from these meetings and contacts.

Since the first UN World Conference on Women held in Mexico City in 1975, women from countries around the world have gathered to network and discuss ways to improve women's economic, social, and political status and lesbian and bisexual women have been a part of this process. At the UN's Third World Conference on Women, held in Nairobi, Kenya in 1985, lesbians from many countries organized to attempt to make the action platform developed at that conference inclusive of sexual orientation issues. Lesbian activists met with considerable resistance; even their right to attend the conference was contested by some.

For the Beijing conference, lesbian activists worked behind the scenes for over two years to gain a commitment from the NGO Forum organizing committee to include a "Lesbian Tent" among the diversity tents being sponsored by the Forum. This was a particularly tricky issue due to the fact that the conference was being held in China. China's government issued statements to the effect that they would deny the visas of women who were obviously lesbian, Tibetan, or otherwise at cross-purposes with the Chinese government's definition of "acceptable participants." The United Nations specifically prohibits such exclusionary action on the part of the host country, but there is evidence that such exclusions did occur. In spite of this, a handful of Tibetan women and numerous lesbian and bisexual women did obtain the necessary visas to make it to the conference. Therefore, it was a testament to both the NGO Forum organizers and the lesbian activists that the Lesbian Tent succeeded in becoming part of the formal structure of the conference.

As a participant in the NGO Forum, I was pleased to learn of the existence of the Lesbian tent, but found myself wondering about the issue of bisexual inclusion. Fortunately, earlier in the conference I had attended a workshop entitled, "On Self-Determination of Women's Sexuality," sponsored by the Asian Women's Conference Network. When the leaders failed to materialize, the participants "self-determined" their own workshop. Of the 30-40 Asian, European, and North American women who gathered under that open tent, there were many lesbians and many who identified as bisexual, queer, or who chose not to label themselves at all. But at the

Lesbian Tent, the B-word was virtually nowhere to be found. With my encouragement, an Asian-American woman who had taken a leadership role in the earlier workshop spoke up, mentioning the fact that many of those attending the earlier meeting had identified as bisexual and voicing a desire for inclusion. Afterwards, the presence of bisexuals and other women-loving-women was acknowledged, but the language used in announcing tent-related events remained, for the most part, very lesbian-specific. Clearly, some action was called for if bisexual women were to be able to feel more at home in this small community within the larger NGO Forum.

Connecting with several other bisexual women from my professional group (the Association for Women in Psychology), we decided over dinner to organize a bi support/discussion meeting. We consulted tent organizers about getting the event scheduled, set a date and time for the meeting, and created and posted fliers around the grounds of the Forum. At 3:00 pm the next day, 50-70 women gathered for the meeting. The vast majority were bisexual-identified, while a few were curious, allies, or women who chose not to label. It was incredible to meet bisexual women from New Zealand, France, China, South Africa, Japan, Germany, Korea, Canada, Kenya, Eastern Europe, the United States and numerous other countries and regions.



Many of the women voiced that they had not felt there was a place for them at this conference until they had seen the sign posted for this meeting. If there was ever a question about the prevalence of bisexual women among the participants at the conference, it was firmly resolved by the results of calling this meeting. The women discussed a number of issues, including the desire/need for opportunities for personal support and sharing, a desire to learn about the issues confronting bisexual women in various countries, issues of security and safety with respect to being "out" at the conference, an interest in setting up a dialogue between lesbian and bisexual women at the conference, and a desire for political action on behalf of bisexual women with respect to the official UN document, the "Global Platform for Action."

The group decided to set additional times to meet during the conference and expressed an interest in networking with one another even after the conference ended. Many women were unaware of the books, organizations, and other resources available to bisexuals, and I offered to send information to those that were interested. I had not packed any in my suitcase due to my fear that possession of such materials might prevent my entry into the country, were they to be discovered during a search at Customs in Beijing. Given the hard line position on homosexuality taken by the Chinese government, I felt it unwise to take a chance of this nature. To my surprise, however, customs was not rigorous in searching our luggage, and many women had managed to smuggle in a variety of informational literature on lesbian and gay rights issues. I regretted that I had not packed mine!

Several points about this experience emerged for me as very significant. First, I was struck by the fact of bisexual invisibility and the very limited awareness of bisexual issues evident at this global meeting. Second, I was equally struck by the tremendous number of women identifying as bisexual who emerged and became visible once a forum was established in which they were specifically named and welcomed as participants. I was further moved by the stories of women from nations as diverse as Sweden and Zimbabwe and the similarity of issues confronting bisexual women in many of these countries. Finally, I was reminded once again of the power of any one person to make a difference in the lives of many and the power of a few to change the shape and direction of an entire conference. As I struggled with my own ambivalence about leadership and visibility, the support of a few other bi women gave me the courage to try and make such a difference. The results of these efforts far exceeded my greatest expectations, and a group of empowered bisexual women changed the texture and fabric of a global conference, bringing bisexual visibility and bisexual pride onto the global stage—where it belongs.

Bisexuality is the capacity for emotional, romantic, and/or physical attraction to more than one gender/sex. A person who self identifies as bisexual affirms this complexity and acknowledges a reality beyond the either/or dualities of heterosexism.

A bisexual identity speaks to the potential, not the requirement, for involvement with more than one gender/sex. This involvement may mean sexually, emotionally, in reality, or in fantasy. Monogamy and non-monogamy are relationship choices regardless of sexual identity. Some bisexuals are monogamous, some may have concurrent partners, others may relate to different genders/sexes at various periods of time. Most bisexuals do not have to be involved with more than one person at a time in order to feel fulfilled.

Identity has nothing to do with sexual behavior or experience. Bisexuals, despite the sexually insatiable stereotype, may or may not be sexually active, may or may not have been sexual with more than one person, or may never have been sexual at all. As with all sexual identities, whom one is, or is not having sex with, or whether one is being sexual or not, has nothing to do with the validity of a self professed identity (i.e. a lesbian is still a lesbian, a gay man is still a gay man, and a heterosexual remains a heterosexual whether they are being, or have ever been sexual, or not).

The institution of heterosexism is based on a mutually exclusive heterosexual/homosexual framework. This monosexual framework posits two sexual orientations on either side of a "fence" that draws the line where privilege begins and ends. Heterosexuals are on the "normal/good" side and homosexuals are on the "abnormal/evil" side. The line separates and protects "us" from "them," while it assures members of each side of what they are not. This line also effectively marginalizes lesbians and gay men as "other" and is the core of homophobia.

Furthermore, lesbian, gay, and heterosexual people are invested, and find a

WHAT IS BISEXUALITY/BISEXUAL IDENTITY/MONOSEXISM/BIPHOBIA?

By Lani Ka'ahumanu

sense of security in being the "other" to each other, and unite in the fact that they are only attracted to either the "same" or the "opposite" gender/sex. This sets up another "us" vs. "them" dynamic which effectively

marginalizes bisexual people as "other." Integral to this dynamic is the automatic assumption people can be defined by the gender/sex of their current or potential romantic interest. For example: two women are assumed to be lesbians in a "lesbian" relationship; two men are assumed to be gay in a "gay" relationship; and a man and woman are assumed to be heterosexual in a "heterosexual" relationship. However, any, or all of these people could be bisexual. And depending upon monogamy and non-monogamy agreements and choices, any, or all of these folks could have sexual behavior with more than one gender/sex whether they identify as bisexual or not.

Bisexual women and men cannot be defined by their partner or potential partner, so are rendered invisible within the either/or monosexual framework. This invisibility (biphobia) is one of the most challenging aspects of a bisexual identity. Living in a society that is based and thrives on opposition, on the reassurances and "balanced" polarities of dichotomy affects how we see the world, and how we negotiate our own, and other peoples lives to fit "reality."

Most people are unaware of their homosexual or heterosexual assumptions until a bisexual speaks up/comes out and challenges the monosexual assumption. Very often bisexuals are then dismissed, and told they are "confused" and "simply have to make up their mind and choose." For bisexually identified people to maintain their integrity in a monosexist society they must have a strong sense of self, and the courage and conviction to live their lives in defiance of what passes for "normal."

Portions previously published in "A Bisexual Identity Has Never Spread HIV" in the National Lesbian Bisexual HIV Prevention and Education Manual, 1995, and conversations with Gerard Palmieri, Danielle Raymond, Loraine Hutchins and Cianna Stewart. More Information: aloha@slip.net, or 415/821-3334

Assuming that everyone you meet is either heterosexual or homosexual.

Supporting and understanding a bisexual identity for young people because you identified "that way" before you came to your "real" lesbian/gay/heterosexual identity.

Expecting a bisexual to identify as heterosexual when coupled with the "opposite" gender/sex.

Believing bisexual men spread AIDS/HIV to heterosexuals.

Thinking bisexual people haven't made up their minds.

Assuming a bisexual person would want to fulfill your sexual fantasies or curiosities.

Assuming bisexuals would be willing to "pass" as anything other than bisexual.

Feeling that bisexual people are too outspoken and pushy about their visibility and rights.

Automatically assuming romantic couplings of two women are lesbian, or two men are gay, or a man and a woman are heterosexual.

Expecting bisexual people to get services, information and education from heterosexual service agencies for their "heterosexual side" (sic) and then go to gay and/or lesbian service agencies for their "homosexual side" (sic).

Feeling bisexuals just want to have their cake and eat it too.

Believing that bisexual women spread AIDS/HIV to lesbians.

Using the terms "phase" or "stage" or "confused" or "fence-sitter" or "bisexual" or "AC/DC" or "switchhitter" as slurs or in an accusatory way.

Thinking bisexuals only have committed relationships with "opposite" sex/gender partners.

WHAT DOES BIPHOBIA LOOK LIKE?

By Lani Ka'ahumanu

Looking at a bisexual person and automatically thinking of their sexuality rather than seeing them as a whole, complete person.

Assuming that bisexuals, if given the choice, would prefer to be within an "opposite" gender/sex coupling to reap the social benefits of a "heterosexual" pairing.

Not confronting a biphobic remark or joke for fear of being identified as bisexual.

Assuming bisexual means "available."

Thinking that bisexual people will have their rights when lesbian and gay people win theirs.

Being gay or lesbian and asking your bisexual friend about their lover only when that lover is the same sex/gender.

Believing bisexuals are confused about their sexuality.

Feeling that you can't trust a bisexual because they aren't really gay or lesbian, or aren't really heterosexual.

Expecting a bisexual to identify as gay or lesbian when coupled with the same sex/gender.

Expecting bisexual activists and organizers to minimize bisexual issues (i.e. HIV/AIDS, violence, basic civil rights, fighting the Right, military, same sex marriage, child custody, adoption, etc.) and to prioritize the visibility of "lesbian and/or gay" issues.

Avoid mentioning to friends that you are involved with a bisexual or working with a bisexual group because you are afraid they will think you are a bisexual.

(Adapted by Lani Ka'ahumanu and Rob Yeager/BIHNet USA, 1996, from Rape Crisis Center of West Contra Costa County, CA, from Lesbians: A Consciousness Raising Kit, by the Boston Lesbian Task Force, and by Building Bridges, March, 1995.)

Jill Sobule, "I Kissed a Girl"
singer-songwriter

"I guess if I had to pinpoint my sexual orientation -- which I hate to do -- then bisexuality would come the closest. But I always cringe when I hear that word. I feel people will judge me as either "She's bisexual, so she'll fuck everybody" or "She's bisexual and fools around with women, but that's not as important to her as a male relationship." "My longest relationship with anybody lasted three years -- and was with a woman. The past four years, however, I've been involved with men; but I hate saying that, because I don't want to dilute the fact that a gay relationship is as valid as a straight one." Sobule insists. "I didn't choose to be with men the past few years just because it's an easier lifestyle. It just kind of happened to me that way. I came to terms with my sexuality a long time ago and I wouldn't feel bad if I was involved in a big old lesbo relationship."

Like many other members of the growing bisexual community, Sobule feels pressure from both sides. "I think it's even more troublesome and shameful to come out as bisexual. Both gays and straights are prejudiced against us." "I believe there is a whole spectrum of sexuality. I want to be a positive role model. That's really important to me," she explains, "Part of doing the song 'I Kissed a Girl' was wanting to do something positive for the community. I wish there had been a song like that when I was growing up. ...I wouldn't have thought I was so freakish."

Dr. Ruth Westheimer
sex therapist
NBC's DATELINE, February, 1996

"I do not think that there is such a category as bisexuality. I have not seen that in my private practice or at the clinic."

In addition her book "Sex for Dummies" makes no mention of bisexuality...

Ani DiFranco
singer/songwriter
Commenting on the media

"One minute I'm a raging dyke, and the next minute I'm straight." DiFranco calls herself, "Whatever." "I've fallen for girls hard and boys hard." She sighs deeply, clearly having been asked this question one too many times. "The thing is people draw this line," she continues, "And they want you to be on one side or the other. So, if I had to say anything, I'd say I'm standing on the line." DiFranco pauses, then adds, "But if I'm standing on the line, how am I supposed to dance around?" "Why do people try to pin me down? Isn't the goal to be able to say, 'It doesn't fucking matter?'"

Dr. Laura Schlessinger
Author and Internationally Syndicated Radio Talk Show Host
February, 1996

When married man called in saying he has feelings for men and also has a great sexual relationship with his wife he asked if she believed in bisexuality? Dr. Laura said, "No."

What they're saying...

Melissa Etheridge
singer-songwriter
Q&A interview "US" magazine, December, 1995
Previous question was about Melissa's partner Julie's bisexuality...

Q: While we're in this territory -- do you feel bisexuals are a force in their own right and may be more so as time goes on?"

A: I believe that it will be the bisexuals that make the change in the world. The twentysomething generation right now is very "Hey, you have your choice. You fall in love with people, and you have the choice." That's what Julie basically felt. She has told me that she didn't ever think she was attracted to a woman before. But when we found each other, she was attracted and fell in love with my soul. And I happened to be a woman."

Anthony Rapp
actor, Broadway musical, RENT
THE ADVOCATE, April 30, 1996

"He savors the Broadway limelight for the prominence it brings him as an out "queer" actor. "As a public figure I think I have a responsibility to present images that break down boundaries and stereotypes. I'm obviously of the mind that coming out is a positive choice." Rapp also prefers using the word 'queer' to describe his sexuality. "...I say 'queer' because I've had girlfriends and boyfriends. And I still really enjoy sex with women. To me, "queer" means that you have the potential to love someone of the same sex, but maybe not exclusively." In fact, his ultimate fantasy is to be with a man and a woman in "some sort of crazy Wedding Banquet kind of family." His current boyfriend is the "love of his life." Rapp says he's "never been able to love someone as openly and as fully..."

Pat Buchanan
Presidential Candidate
Quote from AP article in Lancaster New Era, February, 1996

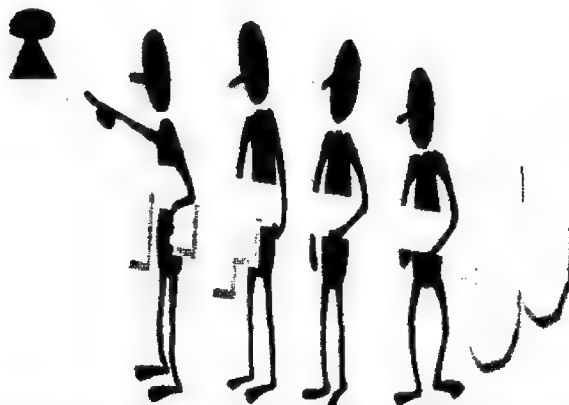
At a rally in Yuma AZ today, Pat Buchanan speaking about the Women's conference in Beijing, called it a "crazy dingbat conference" overrun by homosexual and bisexual women. "It was a horrible thing, dreadful. It looked like the bar scene in Star Wars." If elected, he said, "we're going to put an end to this nonsense."

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

Aug. 16-18, 1996
San Francisco, CA

The Seventh Annual BiNet USA Annual Meeting
(This is not a Conference)

For more information please contact:
BiNet USA, PO Box 7327, Langley Park, MD 20787, (202) 986-7186



Classified AD Information and Guidelines

Classified Ad's are free to BiNet USA members. Rates for non-BiNet USA members are: that they become BiNet USA members so they can get a free Ad. Ad's are placed on a "as available space" basis. There are several categories to choose from: Organizations, Calls for Submissions, Pen Pals, Personals, For Sale. If your Ad does not fit one of these categories, make a suggestion. All personal information will be held in confidence, with the exception of releasing mailing address or phone number as requested as part of the Ad text.

BiNet News reserves the right to edit or reject any ad, and shall not be held responsible for any errors in publication.

Ads which contain blatantly crude or sexist language will not be accepted.

BiNet USA and/or BiNet News is not responsible for claims made in any advertisement. BiNet USA and/or BiNet News is not responsible for individual actions or behavior in the placement or response to any Advertisement. So be smart when answering any advertisement.

Classifieds

Organizations

International Directory of bisexual Groups now available!!!

Edited by Robyn Ochs and published by the Bisexual Resource Center, this issue has over 100 new listings and includes bisexual and lesbian/gay/bisexual groups in 18 countries and over 40 states. You can get your copy by sending \$5 to BRC, PO Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140

Funding

The Bisexual Advisory Board of CA Institute of Contemporary Arts (C.I.C.A.) announces that grants (\$200 to \$1,500) are available for projects related to bisexuality, for example: publications, academic research, seed money for new Bi organizations, community outreach projects, etc.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis and will be reviewed every 4 months. Send for application to: Bi Adv. Board, C.I.C.A., 4545 Park Boulevard, # 207, San Diego, CA 92116, USA

Calls for Submission

Anthology of Bisexual men. Essays are now being accepted for a collection of political, historical, and theoretical essays about bisexual men in the United States. This will be the first anthology to focus on bisexual men and the first bi book to have most of the contributors be bisexual men (essays by bisexual women which address their experiences with bisexual men will also be accepted). The deadline for submissions is Oct. 1. For guidelines or more information, contact Brett Beemyn, P.O. Box 584, Iowa City, Iowa 52244 (SASE appreciated); 319-354-5793; brett-beemyn@uiowa.edu

Essays: About Bisexual men, a projects of the Portland Bisexual Alliance. We are looking for submissions from men, women, and anyone in between on the subject of bisexual men. An essay should cover only one topic and photos/poems should be centered around the subject of bisexual men. Please send your work or inquiries to: Portland Bisexual Alliance, Portland, Oregon, PO Box 412, Portland, Oregon 97207, Attn. Men's Book

HEY, GIRL FAG! Whatcha Writin'?

What It Is: Submissions are currently being sought for an anthology exploring how women make use of male homosexuality and its representations in their own sexual journeys, constructions, and practices. Do you ever "feel like a gay man?" Or just look like one? Do you identify with man-on-man sexual practices? Do you have what feels like gay male sex? Do you gravitate toward male sex space? Have queer male lovers? A "boy" attitude or presentation? Whether you identify with certain aspects of same-gender-loving male culture at certain times, or have a more clearly wrought identity, your story or essay may belong here.

Why It Is: The last few years has seen a proliferation of gender identities, evidenced in the popular press, academia, and particularly in cutting-edge performance art spaces. Among these have been voices of women who in some way, shape or form, identify with or partake of man-on-man sexual identity/practice. In comparison with other groups, gay male communities have traditionally encouraged and accepted multiple sexual partners and the expression and pursuit of specifically articulated sexual preferences. This model of comparatively well-developed sexual vocabulary and culture of satisfaction holds an appeal for some women, who have been silenced and stigmatized around our sexual desires and practices.

Who Done It: Jill Nagle is editing this collection. She is often fag-identified for the reasons cited above. She is fascinated by her experiences in male sex spaces, and the permutations of gender and orientation therein. She is also curious about the connections among ecstasy, transgression and transcendence. Her goal is to collect and publish a short collection (10-15 pieces) covering a range of angles on this topic. Her most recently completed major work is an anthology entitled *Whores and Other Feminists* (Routledge, Winter, 1997).

How to: Autobiography, essays, fiction, poetry, photographs and drawings are all welcome. Contributors may be of any gender, as long as the topic is female faggery. For example, someone who does not identify as a female fag may write about others who do, themselves at a time when they did, or the topic in general. The idea itself may also be problematized - nothing is sacred here. There is no minimum or maximum length. Those who want a guideline should try for 3000-4000 words. Submit double-spaced hard copy plus disk, labeled with system and program used to Jill Nagle, Editor, *Girlfag Anthology*, 1388 Haight Street #215, San Francisco, CA, 94117, or email to JillNagle@aol.com. Payment will be \$50.00-\$100.00 upon publication. Call Jill at (415) 541-5618 for more information.

Deadline: October 15, 1996

Sexuality runs along a continuum. It is not a static "thing," but rather a process that can flow, changing throughout our lifetime.

Bisexuality falls along this continuum. It is the "potential for being sexually and/or romantically involved with members of any gender."

Robyn Ochs

December 28, 1995

Dear BOA, BiPOL and BiNet USA folks...

This is to let you know that BiPOL is hosting the annual national BiNet USA business meeting in August. About 100 bisexuals from around the country will be attending. The business meeting is not a conference with workshops, however there are usually cultural and social events, as well as one skill building workshop for those in attendance. Nothing is written in stone and every city who has hosted the meeting puts their own spin on what happens. Come with ideas and/or for more information on BiNet USA. Get involved in a big or little way.

The August 16, 17, 18 meeting will be held at New College on Valencia Street, as will whatever cultural event we plan for the Friday night. Some of what BiPOL is looking for are people interested in assisting or taking full responsibility for the various aspects of the coordination of this weekend including volunteering their homes/extra beds/floor space/sofas for community housing, organizing "hospitality" one or both days (bagels, coffee, tea, fruit, etc.), registration, dance?, erotic reading?, hmmm, whatelse...

So the first planning/brainstorm meeting will be held at my home, Saturday night, January 6th at 6:30 p.m., 20 Cumberland (between 19/20th and Dolores/Guerrero Streets) in San Francisco. We'll be doing a potluck thang so please call me so I can organize the food. I'll do some hot main dish item, you folks can fill in the rest.

This will be fun and provide us with a great opportunity to get to know each other. I look forward to working with all of you. There are many exciting challenges ahead. The BiNet USA national co-coordinators, the regional representatives and members will be attending. The agenda for the business meeting is usually tight and goal oriented and takes one day and the skill building is on the other, but as I said we can create what works as long as business is accomplished.

BiPOL will be sponsoring mini-fundraisers each month to help defray meeting costs and to assist the bi youth activists and organizers of the National Bisexual Youth Initiative a BiNet USA sponsored project.

Please call me, 415/821-3534. Let me know if you can't make this meeting but would like more information and to attend next time.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ami".

42526

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BiPOL
EDUCATE ▼ ADVOCATE ▼ AGITATE

BiPOL is an independent bisexual/transgender/lesbian/gay political action group founded in 1983 which supports bisexual identity and rights. While BiPOL works in tandem with the more personal, social and support bisexual groups, BiPOL promotes more militant public methods to EDUCATE, ADVOCATE and AGITATE for bisexual visibility and inclusion.

BiPOL is a progressive, feminist, political organization. We believe in fighting to end the oppression of all people regardless of sexual or gender orientation, different abilities, race, age, culture, ethnicity, class or religion. As an active and vital part of the lesbian and gay communities we believe the fight to end the oppression of all sexual minorities will be assisted, not slowed, by the mass coming out of bisexuals in these and all communities.

We strongly support sexual freedom: the freedom of all people, regardless of age, gender or different abilities to explore and define openly their own sexual styles - bisexual, homosexual, heterosexual, selfsexual, celibate, monogamous, promiscuous, and non-monogamous - with others who share the same freedom, responsibility and consent. This includes the right to refuse sexual contact with anyone for any reason and the right of women and men to take responsibility for and to control their own fertility.

OUR GOALS ARE TO:

- Give bisexual orientation a strong, valid identity within the lesbian and gay liberation movement in particular, and society in general. In order to achieve this we must work as bisexuals within the movement both autonomously and collectively.**
- Strive to assure all those whose lives are affected by AIDS/HIV infection will receive compassionate, non-judgmental respect, care, support, love, and assistance.**
- Create a positive image of differing sexualities and sexual attitudes within the media. This necessitates representative and participatory community control of the media, and to create a media and culture of our own.**
- Actively work for the self organization of bisexual people and the coordination of existing bisexual groups, and to form alliances with other progressive forces locally, nationally and internationally.**

Dear Bisexual Organizers and Activists (BOA), BiPOL
and/or BiNet USA Business Meeting organizer folks...

I came across this BiPOL statement of purpose and realized many of you may never have read it. In the 90s we added transgender to the first sentence. The address is the only information that is current. Anyway, here's some upcoming dates.

My copy of Radical Right Rep. Robert Dornan's (R-Calif) recent biphobic tirade on the floor of the House over NewsWeek's bisexual cover story has just arrived... unbelievable how many feelings he has about us. I want to make a bisexual fight the Right video. I also ordered a copy of Pat Sajak going off on bisexuals at the Sir Winston Churchill Lifetime Award's Ceremony for William F. Buckley a couple of weeks ago. Obviously we'll have to have a viewing of these two bozos in action at the BOA Brunch.

And I apologize to the folks in Santa Cruz ahead of time about the tardiness of the BiNet USA Meeting meeting notice. The one for March will arrive in a more timely fashion or I will call you...

- February** 4th ... BiNET USA Business Meeting meeting 11 a.m.
Lani's 20 Cumberland SF 415/821-3534
I'll have coffee/tea/juice, bring chewables
- 5th ... Long Beach Bisexual Conference Activist Day
planning meeting 7 p.m. - Lani's (see above)
- March** 3rd ... BOA Brunch 11 a.m. hot/cold beverage, bagels
crm chz provided, bring other stuff to share
Dornan/Sajak video's if there is interest
Place to be announced, yes you have to call
Lani 415/821-3534 or Gerard 415/621-2535
- 23rd ... GLAM Cocktail Party (low alcohol) Fundraiser
for BiNet USA Business Meeting Aug 16/17/18
Wear your most glamorous outfit, we'll sip
drinks, nibble passed hors d'oeuvres, engage
in terribly interesting conversations with
all the fabulous people in attendance, maybe
dance and of course daahling dish, dish, dish
Meet us at Chateau LeGrant One Veteran Way in
Oakland. \$5-20 sliding scale. Want to wear an
outrageous outfit and pass a plate of hors
d'oeuvres or bring one? a platter that is,
let's talk - 415/821-3534 Matt 510/530-3381
for directions
- April** 14th ... BOA Brunch, 11 a.m hot beverage bagels/cr chz
provided, bring juice or other stuff to share
Gretchen's 3495B 16th/Sanchez nr J. Schmidt's
Chocolates - rsvp 415/548-2505

Lani

Gerard

BiNet USA the national bisexual network

**Annual Membership Meeting
Aug 16-18, 1996 — New College
San Francisco CA**

Please mail registration to: BiPOL
584 Castro Street #422
San Francisco CA 94114

Name _____
Address _____
Phone(s) _____
Email _____

- ☐ Use discretion when contacting me
- ☐ I need housing [If so, please submit housing form by July 8th]
- ☐ I need childcare during meeting [ages] _____
- check one: ☐ I want stipend ☐ I want onsite childcare
- ☐ I need an ASL interpreter ☐ I can provide ASL interpreting
- ☐ I need large print materials.
- ☐ I have an environmental illness and need _____
- ☐ I have dietary needs [specify] _____
- ☐ I have other accessibility needs which are not mentioned on this form. Please contact me.
- ☐ Please consider my request for a transportation stipend.
- ☐ I would like to volunteer. Please contact me to see how I can help.

BiNet USA is a 501(c)3 national non-profit organization dedicated to educate and accurately inform people regarding bisexuality, to facilitate the development of bisexual community and to work for the equal rights and liberation of all oppressed people. BiNet USA is committed to an inclusive multicultural constituency and political agenda. BiNet USA is committed to being as accessible as possible. The conference site is wheelchair accessible. If you need any other services or if you have any questions about accessibility at BiNet USA events, please contact us.

BiNet USA member ☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, here's your chance to join BiNet USA or renew your membership at \$1 per thousand of income.

Membership _____ \$ _____

☐ Here is a donation to BiNet USA to help cover the expenses of the meeting and travel stipends for Bisexual Youth Initiative activists and regional reps (as needed) \$ _____

[illegible]

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

Reception	6pm-8pm
Cabaret cultural event (cost included in registration)	8pm-10pm (open to the public)

SATURDAY

BiNet USA skills building & business meeting (includes breakfast & snacks)	all day	
Social event (extra \$3)	night	\$

SUNDAY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BiNet USA business meeting	til mid afternoon
(includes breakfast & lunch)	
Total	\$

Please make checks payable to BiPOL. Please notify BiNet USA by July 15th of need for childcare, ASL or large print materials.

(over)

BiNet USA^{the national bisexual network}

PLACES TO STAY FOR THE AUGUST MEETING **make your reservations EARLY**

Meeting on Friday, August 16th, through Sunday August 18th
New College, 777 Valencia Street between 18/19th Streets

Travelodge — 1707 Market Street at Valencia Street (about 7 blocks away from meeting site and on the 26 Valencia bus line) 1/800/578-7878 — MUST ASK for the "New College" Rate at 1707 Market A flat charge of \$79 for 1 to 4 people. 20 rooms will be held until August 7th. They have twin, double, and queen size beds. It is near ZUNI's, the very trendy and where the "stars" go to be seen or make a scene restaurant and Floogies, a fabulous Cajun restaurant, and many other fun spots where the locals hang out. Also Market Street is on ALL the main transportation lines to get you to any of the tourist attractions including Castro Street. This is probably the best deal.

The Andora Inn — 2434 Mission Street between 20th/21st Streets (2 1/2 blocks from meeting site — \$5 for 24 hour parking garage Bed and Breakfast, a conference room and library w/fireplace available to guests. Restored 1875 Victorian 415/282-2447 10% off for 4 night stay \$79. In the heart of the busy Mission District business area, near all transportation lines. \$79 w/shared bath for 1 or 2, \$95, \$125, \$145 w/private bath, a suite sleeps 4 for \$185

Dolores Park Inn, 3641 17th Street — 4 blocks from site 415/861-9335 Bed and Breakfast, Wine and Cheese in the afternoon restored Victorian, antiques, very quiet residential neighborhood. \$60 for 1, \$90 for two, and on up from there. (2 night minimum)

The Ramada Hotel Civic Center, 1231 Market Street, 415-626-8000 reservations. (about 12 blocks away, on transportation lines) Ask for Special Weekend Rate. 2 adults \$109, 4 adults \$139. Parking is \$10 per night extra. This is centrally located, across the way from the new state-of-the-art library and on all transportation lines.

NOTE: San Francisco's Hotel Tax is 14%

I am a member of BiNet USA ☐

BiNet USA the national bisexual network

Requesting Housing Form

This form is for those who are **requesting** assistance with housing while attending the meeting (Aug. 16-18, 1996) at New College (Valencia btw 18th & 19th) in San Francisco.

Name/Contact Person _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone - day _____ evening _____ e-mail _____

☐ Use discretion when contacting

and name(s) of others in party (if applicable) (we must have a form for each person) _____

Day/Date of arrival/departure _____

Household Information

Request household with

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any gender | <input type="checkbox"/> Women only | <input type="checkbox"/> Men only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Must have bed | <input type="checkbox"/> Must have private room | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sofa or Futon OK | <input type="checkbox"/> Floor OK | <input type="checkbox"/> Foam OK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I can bring my own sleeping bag | | <input type="checkbox"/> Use of kitchen, if possible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> People of color | <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender-friendly |

Housing Environment

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smoker (and need smoking space) | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't care about smoke |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-smoker (or want smoke free space) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Need alcohol/drug-free space | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Need Environmental illness-safe space | <input type="checkbox"/> Need child-friendly space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Need quiet house | <input type="checkbox"/> No cats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No other pets | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian/vegan House (preferred/necessary)(Indicate, if applicable) | |

ACCESSIBILITY

- ☐ Wheelchair (power or manual) ☐ large print ☐ ASL
- ☐ Other (please explain) _____

Please use the back of this sheet or an additional sheet of paper to detail any other requirements. Housing forms are due to the San Francisco Host Committee by July 8, 1996 so we can arrange a comfortable stay. We'll do our best, but, we cannot guarantee housing. Please contact us as soon as possible. Housing will be confirmed by August 5, 1996.

Please mail c/o BIPOL, 584 Castro Street #422, San Francisco CA 94114.
You can contact us by phone at 415/821-3534 or e-mail at aloha@slip.net

BiNet USA Nomination Form

Please fill this form out to the best of your ability, if you only know the nominee's name, please make your best guess at Region or State that they reside in, and we will attempt to locate them and inform them of the nomination. Return the completed Form to:

BiNet USA, PO Box 7327, Langley Park, MD 20787-7327

Nominee's Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone #(s) _____

Are they a member of BiNet USA? _____ Yes or _____ No or _____ Don't know

BiNet Region they reside in _____

Any group affiliations to print along with they're nomination listing?

Gender identity

Racial/ethnic identity _____

Nominee's biography & Activism experience (150 words or less, use back of page if needed)_____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

"Binet News." BiNet News., spring 1996, p. [1]. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, link.gale.com/apps/doc/DCGULT527388137/AHSI?u=ubcolumbia&sid=bookmark-AHSI. Accessed 30 Dec. 2024.